



The Messenger

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The Rev. Dr. Stephen W. Starzer, Pastor
The Rev. Darren W. Utley, Associate Pastor

April 2021



Dear friends,

Easter is upon us! It seems like a lifetime since we have had a "normal"

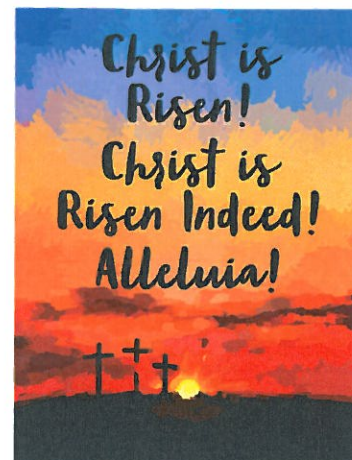
Easter. Last year we were in the throes of the pandemic and the best we could do was a zoom service over the internet. It was quiet and very lonely here at the church as we attempted to bring the good news of Easter to all of you in the best manner we had available to us. This year we are coming toward the end of that tunnel and we will have three live services: 7:00 a.m. at the crosses in the field next to the Family Center; 8:45 in the Family Center and 11:00 in the sanctuary. We will be live streaming the later two since we know we can't be at full capacity nor is everyone comfortable inside quite yet.

I actually think that there is some wisdom in going through these trying times. Think about it. How were things unfolding on the first Easter? The followers of Jesus Christ were in mayhem and confusion. They didn't know what was happening. They were lost in the confusion of mixed messages. They had no idea what that day would bring and certainly they had no idea of how that day would impact the rest of their lives. It was certainly not the best of times and it very well may have been the worst of times for the fledgling Christian community.

Yet, in the midst of that havoc came the voices that began to explain that hope was not gone: Jesus was not dead but very much alive. In the midst of the confusion and mixed messages that we hear every day from the world around us, God is still working good out for us. If death has been conquered how much more so will this dreaded disease be conquered? And maybe more to the point: if the hopelessness of the early followers of Jesus Christ can be reversed 180 degrees how much more so can the Easter message give us a renewed sense of hope as we look forward to our days ahead?

The ancient truth still revives us: Christ has risen
- He is risen indeed!

In Christ's love,



Member News

Vicky Brady no longer has a landline phone. Please change her number to her cell phone number (804) 938-1770.

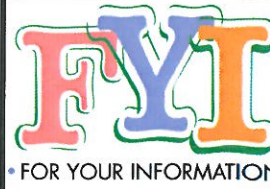
Reggie Crump has moved into an assisted living facility. His new address is: 9631 Burke View Avenue, Burke, VA 22015. His phone number is 703-239-0604.

Heather Brady has bought a house! Her new address is 4106 31st Street, Mount Ranier, MD 20712.

Please keep the following people in your daily prayers: **Johnnie & Nita Dunkum**, **Fran Hansbrough's** sister, Jane, **Jack Mitchell**, **Mike Moore**, **Calvin and Barbara Pearson**, **Jean Plott**, **Gene Rosen's** niece, Tracy, **Buford Wade**, **Marge Wantz'** husband Ned, **Jack Ward**, **John Weeks**, **Don Wells**, **Deborah Wood's** friend Courtney and all those who serve as missionaries abroad and those who serve our nation. Also remember those who need jobs and those in our congregation who are unable to attend church regularly due to illness or limited mobility.

Please remember our members who are unable to get to church: **Evelyn Bailey**, **Ann Barlow**, **Marie Blatt**, **Ruth Gatewood**, **Laverne Longest**, **Myrtle Muire**, **Nancy Norment**, **Murrell & Joyce Nuckols**, **Calvin & Barbara Pearson**, **Virginia Phipps**, **Helen Rigsby**, **Larry Rigsby**, **Faye Sandridge**, **Louise Setchel**, **Sheila Shaw**, and **Bootsie Stevens**.

(Please update Pastor Steve or Pastor Darren as often as possible if you wish to keep your name or your loved one's name on this list.)



Debby and I want you to know that we are building a new home. We decided that we didn't need a house the size of ours and thinking, too, that we should look ahead and bring our living onto one floor. We have sold our house and will be building a new house in the Kennington community in Aylett. We have been looking for well over a year to find something in Hanover County but couldn't find one that met both our needs and our financial ability. Two things I want you to know: first we are not retiring anytime soon. We have much work to do to re-establish ourselves following the pandemic. There is a great deal of work I still feel called to lead you through in the upcoming years. I love being your Pastor and enjoy 99% of all that I do. My health is good and I feel motivated to fulfill my calling as a preacher of the Gospel. (In other words: you are stuck with me for a few more years!) Second, I want you to know that the drive from our new house will only be about 10 minutes further than from our current home. I will still be every bit as available as I am now. Also, I continue to look forward to my ministry with Hanover Fire/EMS and our congregations support of these wonderful men and women.

Pray for us as we pull all of this together! I also need to express Debby's and my deepest appreciation to Stuart Settle for his professional, patient and enjoyable assistance to us as our realtor.

Steve



Dear Members,,
Thank you for the lovely
flower arrangement! We
enjoyed Beth Young
delivering them to us.
The beautiful flowers
lifted our spirits. Thank
you for your kindness.

All the best,
John & Liz Crowe

Dear Fairfield Friends,
Your Get-Well cards and many calls of concern
and encouragement were all welcome and
deeply appreciated. I am most especially
grateful for and shall always treasure the
lovingly crafted Prayer Shawl. Thank you all!

Sincerely,
Tracy Young

Dear Members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry
Committee,

Thank you so much for remembering me
with a prayer shawl and for giving it to me to
provide a source of comfort as I grieve the loss
of 3 members of my immediate family, a well
as one member of my extended family, all
within a very short time period.

When Linda gave me the prayer shawl on
March 7, she had no idea that March 10 was
the upcoming one year anniversary of my
brother's death. I knew that day would be a
difficult day, but your generous gift made it
easier to bear so your timing could not have
been better.

I am so glad that we have our church family
who supports us when times are bad and
rejoices when things are good. Thanks again.

In Christ, Vicky Brady

Special dates

-
- Maundy Thursday, April 1
 - Good Friday, April 2
 - Easter Sunday, April 4
 - Administrative Professionals Day, April 21



| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Liz Crow | April 2 |
| Betty Ransone | April 3 |
| Jeff Schwartz | April 3 |
| Brooke Magill | April 4 |
| Wray Palmore | April 7 |
| Clare Harvey | April 8 |
| Jeff Wash | April 8 |
| Allison Letourneau | April 9 |
| John Daugherty | April 10 |
| Fran Hansbrough | April 10 |
| Gerry Hinig | April 10 |
| Grady Hutchison | April 10 |
| Leigh Lafferty | April 10 |
| Parker Hohman | April 11 |
| Katherine Wollerman | April 12 |
| Brenda Blue | April 14 |
| Marge Wantz | April 14 |
| Maurine Wolfgang | April 14 |
| Stephen Leigh | April 15 |
| Julie Lowery | April 15 |
| Kevin France | April 16 |
| Neal Stevens | April 19 |
| Talan Hale | April 20 |
| Emily Hastings | April 21 |
| Brennan Wash | April 22 |
| Amy Hale | April 23 |
| Bryant Lowery | April 23 |
| Norman Wash | April 23 |
| Tara Hilbert Schneck | April 24 |
| Evan Whitaker | April 24 |
| Marsha Young | April 24 |
| Becky Clark | April 25 |
| Anne Sorensen | April 25 |
| Wyatt Wills | April 25 |
| Ann Zweckbronner | April 25 |
| Molly Zweckbronner | April 29 |
| Joyce Nuckols | April 30 |



| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Philip & Susan Ciejek | April 5 |
| Chuck & Janet Chelette | April 7 |
| Mike & Terri Joyce | April 7 |
| Amy & Rusty Hale | April 10 |
| Nancy & Ivy Gallihugh | April 14 |
| Dennis & Tena Behling | April 18 |
| Calvin & Barbara Pearson | April 23 |
| Bruce & Laura Arnette | April 26 |
| Bill & Judie Thompson | April 26 |

Janie Harrington Bequest

We are delighted to tell you that we received a gift of approximately \$57,000.00 from the Estate of Janie Harrington. This money was added to her previous bequest and brings the Janie Harrington Endowment Fund to a total of approximately \$73,000.00. This is by far the largest single fund we have within our Endowments and will go a long way to ensure the financial well being of Fairfield Church for many, many years ahead. Janie was a long time member of Fairfield and loved her church and her Sunday School class. She brought great joy to anyone who met her. Her Christian faith was the guiding light of her life.



Wednesday Evening Prayer Meetings

Please join us on Wednesdays evenings for a prayer meeting on Zoom. An email will be sent out each Wednesday afternoon to let you know the information for the Zoom meeting. We hope you can join us!



Prayer Shawl Ministry

WE ARE BACK! The Prayer Shawl Ministry got together for the first time in a year this March. We have missed being able to provide some comfort to those who have experienced extra challenges in these trying times. Working diligently, we hope to catch up with everyone we missed this past year.

If you would like to join our group, we meet in the Barlow Parlor the first Wednesday of every month. Any new members are most heartily welcome.

The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry is **Wednesday, April 7 at 10:00am** in the Barlow Parlor.

Anna Barrowclough

2021 Mission Drive

Our Mission Drive continues through April 11th. Last year's Mission Drive was a great success and we are looking forward to sharing your love for Jesus with many different people and organizations this year both locally and internationally. The Mission Committee looks forward to being able to continue reaching out and helping to draw many to Jesus and to the Good News of the Gospel.

Please make your checks payable to Fairfield and mark them "Missions". Give as your heart guides you!

With gratitude and thanks,
The Mission Committee



Believing in

Sometimes we get caught up in thinking we need to understand God in order to have faith. But faith is more about trust than knowledge; it's more about believing in someone that believing information. A child, for instance, doesn't have to know the precise roads to Grandma's house; he only needs to believe in his parents and their ability and desire to get him there safely. Similarly, we need not understand all the intricacies of how God works; we can take a cue from the disciples and let belief in the risen Christ transform and empower us.

In the words of Madeleine L'Engle (*The Rock That is Higher*): "The disciples did not bother to try to understand the resurrection body. They doubted, and then they believed. They believed something so wonderful that it changed this broken, fragmented, beaten-down little group of men and women in a moment from depression to enthusiasm, from despair to new life, vibrant and unafraid."



The Session Committee for planning a cremation memorial garden has resumed meeting. We are exploring design, scope, rules and construction. We would welcome input from anyone who has experience in the area as well as the congregation's interest in such a project.

You can contact Marge Wantz at 789-8716 or mnwantz@mail.com, Beth Young at 730-7644 or Curlewyong@comcast.net or Donna Hohman at 363-8724 or m.hohmans4@verizon.net



Fairfield will be hosting a Blood Drive on **Tuesday, April 27 from 1-6pm** in the Family Center. To schedule an appointment, call the church office (730-7164), visit

redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED-CROSS.

Blood donations are essential at this time!
Please consider giving.



Palm Sunday
March 28, 2021
 8:45 & 11am

Good Friday
April 2, 2021
 7:00pm (Sanctuary)

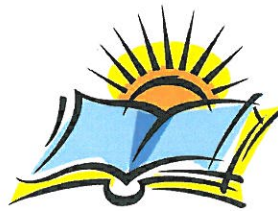
Easter Sunday
April 4, 2021
 Sunrise Service, 7am (at the crosses)
 8:45am Contemporary Service (Family Center)
 11:00am Traditional Service (Sanctuary)

The church office will close at noon on Good Friday and will be closed all day on Easter Monday.



An Easter Prayer

From the grave's depths, Lord Jesus Christ, you emerged, breaking the hold of sin, death and hell, that those who trust in your might share in your righteousness, life and beloved community with God the Father and all God's children. We bow in awe before your majesty, giving thanks for your grace extended so bountifully to us. By the power of your Spirit who lives within us, may we share the astonishing news of your resurrection with others, that they also may know your saving grace. Amen.



"I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me even though they die, will live" John 11 v. 25

CHURCH LIBRARY *News* As this year's Easter season draws closer let us never forget the important events that took place during the first Holy Week and Easter season. Jesus sacrificed himself and died for you and me. Jesus died on the cross for our sins and arose again from the grave on the third day so that we all may have life everlasting.

In the libraries you will find several books that will help us as we reflect on the importance of Jesus' resurrection and what this means for us still today. In the adult library look for He Chose the Nails, He Still Moves Stones and The Joy of Resurrection. In the children's library you will find The Donkey That No One Could Ride, God Gave Us Easter and Legend of the Sandollar.

Because of that first Easter so long ago let us always celebrate Jesus' resurrection with joyful hearts.

Easter Blessings, Elizabeth Covington

Matthew 26: 33 Peter said to him, "Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you." 34 Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times."

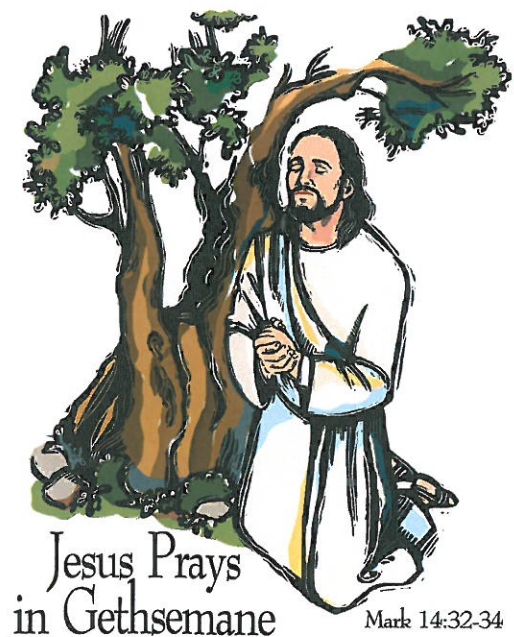
How many times have we denied Christ?

1. We fail to regularly read our Bible.
2. We do not accept Him as our Lord & Savior.
3. We do not live like we accepted Him as our Lord & Savior.
4. We have a job and do not start a weekly Bible study at our office.
5. We don't invite our neighbors to church.
6. We don't serve at church.
7. We don't pray for others.
8. Jesus was not a mime. We think the way we live is enough.
9. We are a chameleon Christian bending this way and that.
10. We believe there are shades of gray in our faith walk.
11. We believe some Bible stories to be "just stories."
12. We look to hang out with the "in crowd."
13. We don't study God's word.
14. We believe science's story of evolution.
15. We see a sunset and fail to know the truth.
16. We seek our own way.
17. We follow those who are not following Him.
18. We don't stand strong even when others fall away.
19. We walk by someone in need.
20. We fail to stop to help a stranded driver.
21. We fail to serve the poor.
22. We fail to bind up the broken hearted.
23. We fail to ask when someone is hurting.
24. We ask how someone is doing, when all we really want is to be on our way.
25. We believe we did something ourselves.
26. We fail to give all the glory to God.
27. We fail to consider others better than ourselves.
28. We fail to tithe.
29. We fail to go the extra mile for others.
30. We fail to see the world through others eyes.
31. We fail to act when God tells us to.
32. We fail to speak when we know our words will make a difference.
33. We fail to try to lead others to Christ.
34. We fail to disciple others.
35. We fail to seek to be discipled by others.
36. We fail to seek Godly counsel.
37. We fail to listen to Godly counsel.
38. We fail to be obedient.
39. We fail to be a team player with other Christians.
40. We fail to see our place as part of the Body of Christ.
41. We fail to be the part of the Body of Christ God desires.
42. We serve the church while failing our spouses.
43. We serve the church while failing our children.
44. We fail to serve on Mission trips locally, in our neighborhoods, work, school and all aspects of our lives.
45. We fail to keep our commitments.
46. We fail to make commitments we should.
47. We talk more than we listen.
48. We are relentlessly committed to our being right.
49. We accept praise as an acknowledgment of our efforts.
50. We fail to pray.
51. We fail to fast.
52. We fail to be humble.
53. We believe ourselves to be a great leader.
54. We believe all our words are of God's authority.

55. We are prideful.
56. We believe in our own efforts.
57. We fail to rely solely on God's power.
58. We stopped reading this list at number 10 believing are lives "are good."
59. We believe we are mature in our faith.
60. We believe we understand the Bible.
61. We believe in ourselves.
62. We fail to know we have a cross.
63. We fail to pick up our cross.
64. We fail to pick up our cross daily.
65. We fail to recognize the power of the cross.
66. We fail to take our sins to the cross.
67. We fail to appreciate the power of grace.
68. We fail to forgive others.
69. We fail to forgive ourselves.
70. We believe in worldly power.
71. We let the sins of the past rule over our future.
72. We fail to live knowing we cannot be snatched out of His hand.
73. We fail to believe in our true value.
74. We fail to reach our true potential with Christ.
75. We fail to believe we are an overcomer.
76. We forget who God made us to be.
77. We react rather than respond.
78. We anger easily.
79. We hold grudges.
80. We let the sun go down on our anger.
81. We become indignant.
82. We are self righteous.
83. We speak first.
84. We listen last.
85. We listen thinking of what to say next.
86. We fail to truly hear.
87. We believe we know how someone feels.
88. We think we know the answer for someone else's life.
89. We fail to seek out others in misery.
90. We fail to walk alongside others who are suffering.

91. We struggle when we need to be strong.
92. We waiver when we need to push forward.
93. We befriend those that Christ knows you should not.
94. We do not witness to those Christ knows you should not befriend.
95. We seek friendships with those mainly like ourselves.
96. We fail to speak the light of Christ into a lost world.
97. We believe the job of witnessing is for others.
98. We believe the Great Commission was a great suggestion.
99. We fail to interpret the Bible under the grace of the two greatest commandments.
100. We believe there are only a 100 ways we can deny Christ.

By John Dillard




Notes from the Session

Your Elders meet for their stated March meeting on March 16th in the Heritage Hall. During their meeting they:

- approved the minutes of the February meeting
- received the report of the good work the Deacons are doing including cards and devotionals which were mailed to shut ins and plans for Brunswick stew to be delivered to homebound members as well
- heard that Team Youth gathered, prepared and mailed care packages for our college students
- decided to follow our tradition of not serving communion on Easter Sunday even though it falls on the first Sunday of the month
- forwarded to the Facilities Management Team a request for building use one day a week by a home school organization
- affirmed our desire to hold an Easter Sunrise service on our own this year due to the status of our sister churches. It will be held on our side lawn by the crosses at 7:00 a.m.
- gratefully learned that the Facilities Management Team is working diligently and well to maintain our facilities through a project management schedule. They also will be doing immediate work such as fixing toilets and lighting issues
- rejoiced in learning that our Endowment Fund continues to grow and is making a big difference in both Missions and Building needs above what our budget can do
- celebrated the receipt of the bequest of \$57,000.00 from the Estate of Janie Harrington which will be added to her named Endowment Fund
- grateful to hear that the Wednesday evening prayer meeting and Lenten study continues to do well under team leadership
- were glad to hear that Alec and Angela continue to do good work with the children of the church and had plans for the arrival of the Easter Bunny
- heard that the schedule for Holy Week will include a Good Friday service in the sanctuary but we will not have a Maundy Thursday service this year
- discussed the progress of the Task Force on solar panels and the Task Force on memorial garden/columbarium as they each are in the information gathering stage of their work
- received the report of the commissioners to the Presbytery meeting as they explained the plans for reorganizing the Presbytery of the James and learned of the closing of two more congregations: Lakeside and New Covenant
- continues to discuss how we will work our way back to a full reopening of the church post covid-19
- adjourned to meet again on April 20th in Heritage Hall





The hidden surprise in these sweet rolls hints at the reason behind Easter's joy.

What you need:

- ½ cup chopped pecans
- 10 uncooked frozen rolls, thawed
- 10 large marshmallows
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- ½ cup melted butter
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Grease a round baking dish. Sprinkle pecans on the bottom.
2. Flatten each roll. Place a marshmallow in the center, wrap dough around it and pinch edges together.
3. Combine sugar and cinnamon. Dip each roll into melted butter and coat with cinnamon-sugar. Place in pan, seam side down.
4. Sprinkle brown sugar and remaining butter over rolls. Cover with plastic wrap and let rise 30 minutes.
5. Bake at 350 degrees until golden brown, about 30 minutes. Cool in pan.
6. As you bite into a roll, you'll see the marshmallow has melted, leaving an empty center — just like Jesus' empty tomb!

APRIL 2021

| Sunday | | Monday | | Tuesday | | Wednesday | | Thursday | | Friday | | Saturday | |
|--------|--|--------|--|---------|---|-----------|---|----------|---|--------|---|----------|--|
| 28 | Palm Sunday Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Traditional Worship (sanctuary) 4:30 PM Youth Group (Family Center) | 29 | 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) | 30 | | 31 | 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 7:00 PM Prayer Meeting Online | 1 | Maundy Thursday 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (FC) | 2 | Church Office closes at noon Good Friday 7:00 PM Good Friday Service | 3 | 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM New Beginnings Church (HH) |
| 4 | Easter Sunday Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org 7:00 AM Sunrise Service (at the crosses) 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Traditional Worship (sanctuary) | 5 | Church Office Closed 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) | 6 | | 7 | 10:30 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry (Barlow Parlor) 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 7:00 PM Prayer Meeting Online | 8 | 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (Heritage Hall) 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (FC) | 9 | | 10 | 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM New Beginnings Church (HH) |
| 11 | Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Traditional Worship (sanctuary) | 12 | 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) | 13 | 7:00 PM Personnel Team (#26) | 14 | 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM Girl Scouts (Pavilion/#20) 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 7:00 PM Boy Scout Greenbar Meeting (#19) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 7:00 PM Prayer Meeting Online | 15 | 7:00 PM Boy Scout Committee Meeting (#20) 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (FC) | 16 | | 17 | 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM New Beginnings Church (HH) |
| 18 | Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Traditional Worship (sanctuary) 3:30 PM Youth Group Movie Night (Family Center) | 19 | 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) | 20 | <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 7:00 PM Session Meeting (Heritage Hall) | 21 | 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 7:00 PM Boy Scout Anniversary Dinner set-up (Heritage Hall) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 7:00 PM Prayer Meeting Online | 22 | Boy Scout Anniversary Dinner (Heritage Hall) Earth Day 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (FC) | 23 | | 24 | 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM New Beginnings Church (HH) |
| 25 | Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Traditional Worship (sanctuary) 4:30 PM Youth Group (Family Center) | 26 | 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) | 27 | 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM Red Cross Blood Drive (Family Center) | 28 | 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM Girl Scouts (Pavilion/#20) 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 7:00 PM Prayer Meeting Online | 29 | 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (Heritage Hall) 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (FC) | 30 | | 1 | 1:00 PM NBC Choir Practice (#29) 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM New Beginnings Church (HH) |

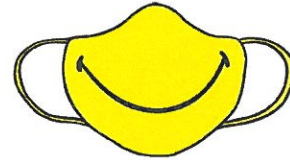


- YouTube.com
(search up Fairfield
PCUSA)
- On our Facebook
page
- at our website:
Fairfieldpcusa.org.

In Person Worship Services on Sundays:

8:45 a.m. in the Family Center

11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary



**FACE MASK
REQUIRED**



Fairfield Church
P.O. Box 1088
Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Return Service Requested

